

**COLLEGE-WIDE SENATE**

**GENERAL MEETING**

Online Senate Meeting on Zoom

Thursday, September 23, 2021

3:30 – 5:46 PM

**Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

* **Allied Health**: Professors Ronette Shaw, Rayola Chelladurai and Diana Macri
* **Behavioral and Social Sciences**: Professors Ernest Ialongo (Chairperson), Nancy Genova, Felipe Pimentel
* **Business**: Professors Claude Fernandez and Carol Huie
* **English**: Professors Alexandra Milsom, Krystyna Michael, Sean Gerrity
* **Education**: Professors Jacqueline DiSanto, Michael Gosset, and Iris Mercado
* **Gittleson Representative**: Clifton Pierce
* **Humanities**: Professors Humberto Ballesteros, Thomas Beachdel, Emmanuel Velayos Larrabure, Catherine Lewis
* **Language and Cognition**: Professors Mildred Rabry and Karin Lundberg
* **Library**:  Professor Jorge Matos
* **Mathematics**: Professors Alexander Vaninsky, Edme Soho and Moise Koffi
* **Natural Sciences**: Professors John Gillen and Debasish Roy
* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** Mr. Carlos Rivera, Ms. Silvia Reyes, Ms. Alba Lynch, Ms. Cynthia Morales-Delbrun, Ms. Daliz Perez-Cabezas, Ms. Elizabeth Wilson, Mr. Iber Poma, Ms. Yvonne Rosario Quiroz, Ms. Marsha Milan-Bethel, Mr. Raymond Perez, Mr. Mejia Theudys, Mr. Travaras Geter
* **University Faculty Senate (UFS)**: Professors Eugena Griffin, Gail August, and Julie Trachman
* **PSC**: Professor Craig Bernardini
* **Public Safety/Maintenance**: PS Officer Clara Albino
* **Senate At-Large Faculty Representatives**: Professors Hector Soto, Clara Nieto-Wire, Natasha Yannacañedo, Juno Morrow, Carl Grindley, Matt Moses, Stacey Cooper, Damaris-Lois Lang, Andrew Connolly, Elys Vasquez-Iscan
* **Adjunct Representative**: Professor Ruben Worrell
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA)**: Mr. Brian Carter, Mr. Abdul Abubakar, Mr. Junior Carela, Mr. Raymond Flowers, Ms. Bouampoundi Brigitte Thiombiano, Ms. Sonya-Jo Hamilton

**Absent:**

* **CLT Representative**: Mr. Marino Corniel
* **Education**: Professor Eunice Flemister
* **Humanities**: Professor Weldon Williams
* **Adjunct Representative**: 1 vacancy

**Excused Absence:**

* **Higher Education Officers** **(HEOs):** Ms. Safiya Faustin, Mr. Michael Martinez

**Non-Voting Members:**

President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Provost Charles Drago, SVP Esther Rodriguez Chardavoyne, Ms. Emily Tenzer Santoro (HEO Organization Chair)

**Guests**:

Parliamentarian Shannon Sun, Linda Miles, Sherese Mitchell, Fabian Wander, Jewel Jones, Jason Libfeld, Jason Buchanan, Jerry Rosa, William Suarez-Gomez, Karina Guardiola-Lopez, Allison Baptiste, Joyce Dais, Maria Cano, Johanna Gomez, Johanna Arroyo Peralta, Diana Kreymer, Wendy Small-Taylor, Eric Radezky, Sarah Brennan, Professor Lizette Colón, Minfeng Lin, Victor M. Torres-Velez, Arnaldo Bernabe, Aaron Botwick, Terrence Brown, Carmen Sosa, Marcelo Viana Neto, Elbagina Bonilla, Aixa McLean, Graciano Matos, Daniel Casey, Sandy Figueroa, David Primak, Ann Genzale, AJ Stachelek

1. Call to Order

The Roll was called to identify voting Senators

Quorum established at 3:44PM

Senate called to order at 3:44 PM

1. Acceptance of Agenda

Approval of agenda: Accepted as pre-circulated with addition of a. and b. added with no objections under New Business

 a. Discussion on vaccine mandate and removing students from classes

 b. Discussion on Senate procedures and setting Senate agendas

1. Approval of May 20, 2021 Senate Minutes

The minutes of May 20, 2021: Accepted as pre-circulated

1. Chair’s Report

The Chair welcomed various new Senators, and announced that the Senate would be online for the remainder of the fall semester. The Chair also announced that all amendments to the Charter of Governance had been approved by the Board of Trustees, and the new document (effective July 7, 2021) is online, along with older and archived inactive versions of the Charter

1. President’s Comments

President Daisy Cocco De Filippis made the following comments:

-Thank you everyone.

-Please continue to read *Semanario*

-Try to join us on Wed. 29th—Middle States Town Hall (which is coming along well)

-Thank you, Prof. Nelson Nuñez-Rodriguez and Prof. Kate Wolfe, for their efforts on Middle States.

1. SGA President’s Comments

President Brian Carter made the following comments:

-Honored to represent community at Hostos.

-We plan on making the best of our situation, looking to recruit more members.

-He then introduced his new cabinet.

-He encouraged love and to incorporate awareness.

-He finished by noting that at the SGA we will uphold ethics and greatness.

1. Elections (See Appendix for Email Announcement of results to College Community)
	1. Senate Executive Committee: 1 Faculty Senator

Floor open for nominations

Prof. Ernest Ialongo nominated Professor Damaris-Lois Lang

Prof. Lang accepted

Floor open to other nominations

No further nominations

Floor is closed

Vote

Yes: 53 (3 oral)

No: 0

A: 2

Prof. Lang elected.

* 1. Senate Executive Committee: Two Student Senators

Floor open for nominations

Prof. Ernest Ialongo nominated President Brian Carter

President Carter nominated Junior Carela

Carela accepted

Any other nominations?

None

Floor is closed

Vote

Yes: 5 (3 oral)

No: 0

A: 1

Carter 58 (3 oral)

Carela 56 (3 oral

President Carter elected

Junior Carela elected

b. 1 Faculty Senator for Senate Committee on Committees

Prof. Elys Vasquez-Iscan nominated Prof. William Suarez-Gomez

Prof. Ialongo noted needs to be full-time faculty

Prof. Ialongo; any other nominations

Ms. Alba Lynch nominated Prof. Jacki DiSanto

Di Santos declined

Prof. Trachman nominated Prof. Krystyna Michael

Prof. Michael accepted

Mr. Iber Poma nominated Prof. Jorge Matos

Prof. Matos accepted

Any other nominations?

If you want to write in any name for poll, please send direct message

No further write in names

Prof. Krystyna Michael

Y: 29 (1 oral)

N: 0

A: 3

Prof. Jorge Matos

Y: 27 (2 oral)

N: 0

A: 3

59 total votes cast;

Does not render victor

Second vote held

53 total votes cast

Prof. Michaels elected. with 29

2 Student Senators to Senate Committee on Committees

Prof. Julie Trachman nominated President Brian Carter

President Brian Carter accepted

President Brian Carter nominated Raymond Flowers

Raymond Flowers accepted

Any other nominations?

Send in names in chat if desired

President Brian Carter

Y: 53 (3 oral)

N: 0

A: 1

Raymond Flowers

Y: 53 (3 oral)

N: 0

A: 0

1. Charter Amendment: First Presentation
	1. New Unit - Global Humanities Unit, Humanities Department – Prof. Thomas Beachdel

Prof. Thomas Beachdel presented:

Prof. Diana Macri gave kudos

Prof. Beachdel thanked the Senate

1. Curricular Items - None
2. Non-Curricular Voting Items - None
3. Reports of the Senate Standing Committees
	1. Senate Budget and Finance Committee
		1. Prof. Ialongo commented that the committee met with SVP Esther Rodriguez-Chardavoyne and discussed the financial plan over the next three years. As stated at the State of the College, for the next two years federal funding has allowed the college to avoid cuts owing to declining enrollment. In the third year, a growth to enrollment is critical for the college.
4. UFS Update (See Appendix for text)
	1. Prof. Julie Trachman

Professor Trachman presents:

Any questions?

1. New Business

 a. President Brian Carter Vaccine Statement:

Read (see in Appendix, along with emailed statements sent after meeting to

Recording Secretary Beachdel to be included)

[In the interest of capturing comments as they were delivered, a detailed accounting is offered, instead of the general overview of discussion as is recommended by Robert’s Rules of Order.]

Comments ensue:

Prof. Felipe Pimentel: this is not in our hands; not a good message for students to

threaten; this is not the message to get students vaccinated. Need a solution this week.

Prof. Craig Bernardini: Do we have data about how many students this will affect?

Prof. Gail August: Students should not have to pay for our mistakes.

Prof. Hector Soto: The action being contemplated; the penalty is draconian.

Mr. Graciano Matos: We have been giving information to every student, if feels like a

betrayal to all of this hard work.

Mr. Junior Carela: I am happy that professors are supporting students.

Ms. Alba Lynch: Something needs to be done

Madame President Daisy Cocco De Filippis: Thank you. I look for balance and I appreciate your comments. Meeting last night; today different council meetings. To students, go get vaccinated—it is not just for you but for everyone. We care about you. Lots of sacrifices to keep college going. I will take these comments.

Prof. Bernardini: Responds to Prof. August.

SVP Esther Rodriguez-Chardavoyne: Every day the vaccination info changes. We are

working very hard.

Prof. Beachdel: Send me email for statement to record by Monday Sept. 27th

Prof. Trachman: Concerned about students we may lose also b/c of WN reversals.

Concerned with Hy-flex. Reenroll students into online classes, students who may get

bumped.

Prof. Carl Grindley: Add my voice to Prof. Bernardini’s; snapshot data on vaccination would be helpful.

Prof. Ialongo motion to extend time to 5:15

Junior Carela seconds

Any objections?

No objections

Extended to 5:15

Prof. Ialongo encouraged people to send email to Prof. Beachdel by Monday and asked Prof. Beachdel to combine those with Statement by President Carter, so they could be sent to President’s Office by Monday, Sept. 27.

President: Will get you vaccination data early next week.

b. Discussion in reference to Prof. Sherese Mitchell’s (Chair of the CWCC) request for clarification via email to Senate on Senate procedures. [\*Please see Appendix for detailed transcript of the discussion, added by Senate approval on November 18, 2021]

[In the interest of capturing comments as they were delivered, a detailed accounting is offered, instead of the general overview of discussion as is recommended by Robert’s Rules of Order.]

Prof. Ialongo mentioned the email that clarification was needed as to why chair of CWCC needed to be at SEC to present curriculum items.

Professor Ialongo In Brief:

-What was taken for granted was that the behind the scenes work so critical for Senate to function efficiently was not commonly known to Senators and the general college community. SEC is there to help streamline efficiency and avoid problems on Senate floor. We do this by meeting with all members of the college community who seek to have something on the Senate agenda, and craft the agenda accordingly.

-This is not a new policy; anyone seeking to have an item on the Senate agenda presents the items to SEC; we have been doing this for 5 years, and the result has been a 100% clearance rate of the Senate agenda over the last 5 years, most especially curricular items;

-We make no changes to items presented at SEC.

-Prof. Ialongo noted the SEC derives the authority to proceed in this manner from the Charter of Governance, Article II, Section 11 The Executive Committee, B. Functions of the Executive Committee:

2. To transact such business as may be necessary between meetings of the Senate.

4. To develop any procedures needed to implement any charge given to it and to

review existing procedures when needed.

6. To meet at least once a month during the academic year and expedite Senate

business.

7. To schedule regular and special Senate meetings, to determine what is appropriate

Senate business, and to prepare agendas for such meetings.

-CWCC Chair was aware of this policy when elected. Refused to present at May SEC meeting, and the SEC needed to ask Dean Ann Mester to present at the last moment.

-CWCC Chair does not agree with the policy of presenting at SEC

-The SEC asked for a liaison from CWCC to present to SEC, and received one.

-We feel situation is resolved.

-To be clear the presentation to SEC requires 10-15 minutes once a month.

Professor Hector Soto:

SEC is not expert on curricular matters. CWCC is. SEC knowledge of Senate and how to get efficiently from submission to vote. We need a briefing. CWCC comes with curricular items and we need someone who is at their meeting to help us, to clarify issues, and make it easier to envision how Senate will unfold. Based on what we have done, you can see the process works well. We need someone from CWCC; we have done it as a matter of policy and practice.

Professor Sherese Mitchell:

After attending ¾ meetings is why I made the decision. I want to be transparent. Prof. Sandy Figueroa needs to be recognized.

Prof. Sandy Figueroa:

Before I left, I should have put this in the CWCC procedures manual.

But I did not. My assumption is that this would not have been an issue. My recommendation is that CWCC take into consideration and decide what they do.

 Prof. Ialongo:

Prof. Ialongo clarified that SEC authority over establishing the agenda and conducting business between Senate meetings to expedite Senate business overrides the operating procedures of any Senate committee. Senate committees operate under the umbrella of the SEC and the Committee on Committees.

Prof. Ialongo: Motion to extend to 5:30

Just voting senators

Raise hand to stay: 38

No: 5

We extend; we have 2/3s

Prof. Diana Macri: When I was in SEC, there was nothing but positivity of Chair of CWCC coming to SEC—it was beneficial, and helpful. It was collegial.

Mr. Junior Carela motions for extension; 15 minutes.

Prof. Macri objects

Raise hand to stay: 26

No: 9

We extend; we have 2/3s

Prof. Ialongo: Do we still have quorum?

Ms. Sun please do the counting.

We have 41; we have quorum.

We extend to 5:45.

Prof. Figueroa:

I am concerned that someone was substituted without CWCC voting. Where is the

CWCC on this? I am concerned about this.

Prof. Ialongo:

We asked for CWCC to send someone in May, the Chair of CWCC sent no one; we asked in August and were informed the CWCC felt they were not obligated to send someone to SEC. Prof. Ialongo contacted members of the CWCC and determined there was a lack of clarity regarding Senate procedures, and an emergency meeting of SEC and CWCC was called for September 15 with the express purpose of securing a representative from the CWCC to give a briefing. At the meeting the SEC asked for volunteers to act as liaison, and one stepped forward. At that moment, the SEC considered the issue resolved. That evening Prof. Mitchell sent an email to the Senate requesting further clarification of procedures, and thus this current discussion.

Prof. Lizette Colon:

We should not be imposing; let the CWCC determine; we elected her and trust her.

Prof. August:

Senate only has 1.5 hours and agrees with Prof. Colon, but we really got bogged down in the past and things didn’t pass that should have because of not good communication. I’ve been successfully helped by the Chair of Senate in presenting to Senate. All of this is in interest of getting best curriculum passed for students. It has been working, as it had with Sandy.

Prof. Lang:

Clarification: CWCC is it similar to regular standing committees? Is there a consistency?

Prof. Ialongo:

Yes. All Senate standing committees are equal and operate according to the Charter.

Prof. Mitchell:

Not a matter of not wanting to go to these meetings, but to preserve academic items. The committee needs to have a discussion.

Prof. Ialongo:

I appreciate those meetings were not what were expected, but they have been working over a number of years with various stakeholders to move items through Senate, most especially curriculum, and the process will continue. We’ll need someone from CWCC to present items to SEC. Thank you.

1. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 5:46 pm

 Submitted by

Prof. Thomas Beachdel

**Appendix:**

7. Elections

[Email from Chair Ialongo to College Community the day after this Senate meeting]

Dear College Community,

I'd like to report to you the voting actions of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and the College-Wide Senate that transpired recently.

On September 15, the Senate Executive Committee elected Prof. Hector Soto (Behavioral & Social Sciences Department) as Vice-Chair of the College-Wide Senate.

On September 23, the College-Wide Senate elected the following to the Senate Executive Committee:

Faculty Senator to the SEC: Prof. Damaris-Lois Lang (At-Large Senator, Natural Sciences Department)

Student Senators to the SEC: Mr. Brian Carter (SGA President), Mr. Junior Carela (SGA VP for Academic Affairs)

On September 23, the College-Wide Senate elected the following to the Senate Committee on Committees:

Faculty Senator to the Senate Committee on Committees: Prof. Krystyna Michael (English Department)

Student Senators to the Senate Committee on Committees: Mr. Brian Carter (SGA President), Mr. Raymond Flowers (SGA Executive Secretary).

Congratulations to all, and thank you for your service to the college.

Sincerely,

Ernest Ialongo, Chair

Hostos College-Wide Senate

12. UFS Update

* 1. Prof. Julie Trachman

UFS Informational Meeting July 27, 2021

1)Report on Budget (Profs. N. Benton and J. Verzani):  They shared a number of documents with us prior to the session including CUNY’s third quarter financial report, FY2022 State Enacted and City Adopted Budget Analysis, FY2022 Initial Allocation Memo from Senior Vice Chancellor M. Sapienza.

Some of the specific details overlap with the information shared at the Stated Meeting of the College held this past Tues.  At the state level, CUNY did reasonably well.   Some moneys were added to our budget (helped by the federal COVID-19 relief i.e. stimulus money) so as to for ex., be able to increase the FTE amount by $50 to $2997.  With the NYC budget, there were significant cuts to our budgets which will hurt the community colleges if this money is not restored in the future.  Some of these cuts are hoped to be short-term and due to the influx of money from the COVID-19 relief funds.  But there is considerable concern because the enrollment is down at the CUNY community colleges as it is elsewhere (this trend is being seen across the nation).  They also talked about the CUNY three-year plan and that we have to be careful in how we plan ahead.  The federal moneys are helping us out of our current financial predicament but need to be spent in this next year or two.  And as many of you know, some of that money has been allocated to help pay off student debt for students who experienced certain types of hard ship and deemed eligible.    That use of the money will help take care of some of our recent financial shortfalls but needs to be view carefully with respect to the 3-year plan and beyond.  Also some of that stimulus money is being used to pay off some CUNY bills such as to the Auxiliary Corporation which deals with costs incurred for cafeteria spaces and rental spaces (those spaces were not used much or at all during the pandemic).

2)Enrollment (Prof. J. Young): As mentioned above, CUNY community college enrollment is down.  The exact numbers mid-summer were not available but it was projected that the numbers will be lower than what we had experienced for Fall 2019 and Fall 2020.  CUNY is hoping we can increase the numbers of adult learners enrolling at our campuses, i.e. to encourage them to come back to school to finish their degrees in order to counterbalance the decrease in enrollment we are experiencing now. But we were also reminded that SUNY and others have similar ideas.

Library Re-opening (Prof. R. Shirazi): The re-opening plans vary across the CUNY campuses.  Some may be at Stage 2, some at Stage 3 and some even at Stage 4.   They anticipate there might be reduced hours due to decreases in staffing.  She believed that inter-campus services will resume in the near future.  She also anticipated there will be some new remote services offered.

Re-opening, vaccination (Chair, M. Burke): At the time we met, we knew CUNY mandated students to be vaccinated this fall if they were taking in person or hybrid classes and CUNY was strongly encouraging faculty and staff to be vaccinated by the beginning of the fall semester as well.  We were told that 18 COVID testing centers were going to be set up at various campuses across CUNY.  There was a question about the effectiveness of the mandate with the FDA not yet fully approving the vaccines although that is anticipated to happen sometime early fall.   There was a question about a mask mandate but that was not known yet.  And it was acknowledging there could be scheduling changes when it comes to teaching modalities depending on what happens with vaccination.

13. New Business

a. President Brian Carter Vaccine Statement:

Brian Carter 9/23/21

 Proposed Vaccination Mandate

Good Afternoon to the members of the College Wide Senate Committee on the behalf of the SGA it was disheartening to hear of the unfortunate news that a large majority of our student body will be unenrolled as of September 27th, 2021 due to the CUNY vaccine mandate. This will also create a financial burden which will be afforded towards our students who are struggling admits a Pandemic itself. We would like to propose the following:

Allowing in person Professors who are willing to show their in-person classes via zoom to the students who do not meet the vaccination requirement by the deadline (BTW students were still allowed to register by September 9th).

Allowing students registered in the so called “hybrid courses) which as we know, many times means that those classes meet only the first and the last day of classes for their finals. Let’s allow them to stay registered even if they are not vaccinated and ask them for their finals in person to bring proof of COVID test of no more than 48 hours or be tested on college site.

**Faculty Statements:**

**Responses from Senate Floor**

(these have been emailed to Thomas Beachdel, Recording Secretary, and are presented in order received, not necessarily in order presented on Senate Floor)

Professor Jacqueline DiSanto

Please consider this remark for the record:

The past 18 months have been considered a global emergency.  We have taken measures for shorter term emergencies like Hurricane Sandy that included making up time online.  Removing students from class due to a non-vaccination may be a matter of health and safety but it undermines efforts to save our enrollment.

Allowing students to complete their courses asynchronously does several things:

1.  saves them money as their financial aid and personal funds will not be spent without having earned credits.

2.  maintains enrollment that will help us not lose state funds

3.  encourages students to return in spring as we will be practicing what we preach--supporting our students toward graduation

The downside is that this may mean more work for faculty.  That is another discussion but one that can be discussed once we at least consider the option of moving students who cannot come to campus online.

Ms. Alba Lynch

Dropping students from classes due to not receiving the vaccine, is disheartened and not only will add financial burden to students, but it will discourage them from returning to college; therefore, crushing their dreams, especially our student population. Students should have not been allowed to register for classes without proof of vaccination. CUNY was willing to register Students up till September 10th.​

Professor Gail August

There was a Hostos vaccination policy announced in the spring. I spent a lot of time helping students to understand the vaccine requirement and how to plan to be fully vaccinated by September. Now we have a problem with students who were admitted to the college in spite of the fact that they had not observed this vaccination policy. Students should not have to pay for our mistakes and no student should be dropped from the college or asked to pay for classes they cannot attend.

We cannot punish those students, but we should be very clear in future semesters about who is eligible to attend our college.

However, we ALSO have an obligation to provide a safe and honest college environment for all of our students. Those who registered for classes assuming that their classmates would be vaccinated should not now be required to attend classes with unvaccinated students.

I suggest that for this semester, all unvaccinated or not totally vaccinated students be allowed to complete their studies via zoom. In-person classes can have a camera and computer providing a zoom component. This has been done in many public schools, in all grades, starting with pre-k.

(I will amend this in response to Craig Bernardini’s thoughtful response. We do not want this to become an ongoing policy, adding new responsibilities to teachers. However, I have observed and attended classes where there was a zoom component for international students or contagious students. It is not ideal, but I think it is better than allowing unvaccinated students into the classroom.)

(I will also amend this in response to another point made at the meeting. I really understand the problem of the pregnant student who didn’t want to get vaccinated. But that student made a choice and should live with the consequences of that choice. I ALSO feel for the pregnant student who DID get vaccinated and does not want to be exposed to Covid. And also for the student who goes home to unvaccinated children or vulnerable seniors.)

One more point: Is anyone else uncomfortable with the daily announcements from CUNY reminding students about the vaccination deadline and telling them to get the J&J vaccine? I do not believe our college should be telling students which vaccine to take. Also, in spite of what the message says, 3 days after receiving the J&J vaccine, a student would not be considered fully vaccinated.

b. Addition to September 23, 2021 Hostos Senate Minutes – Prof. Sherese Mitchell

NOTE: For your convenience, I highlighted in yellow and underlined what I transcribed from the recording sent to me on Friday, October 22nd. by Senate/SEC Chair. I included time stamps from the recording to make it easier to locate text. I have also included page numbers which correspond to the original September minutes sent to the Senators.

b. Discussion in reference to Prof. Sherese Mitchell’s (Chair of the CWCC) request for clarification via email to Senate on Senate procedures.

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-CWCC Chair does not agree with the policy of presenting at SEC

-The SEC asked for a liaison from CWCC to present to SEC, and received one.

-We feel situation is resolved.

-To be clear the presentation to SEC requires 10-15 minutes once a month.

Professor Hector Soto: **(1:45:53)—Near top of page 7**

SEC is not expert on curricular matters. CWCC is. SEC knowledge of Senate and how to get efficiently from submission to vote. We need a briefing. CWCC comes with curricular items and we need someone who is at their meeting to help us, to clarify issues, and make it easier to envision how Senate will unfold. Based on what we have done, you can see the process works well. We need someone from CWCC; we have done it as a matter of policy and practice.

I said this at yesterday’s meeting in some form. I am not an expert, and I don’t think the SEC is an expert on curriculum matters. The CWCC has the expertise about how to shape, form, promote the curriculum items that professors are proposing. I see our job at the SEC, and I think this is what we have been trying to do is given our knowledge of how the Senate works and the procedures of the Senate, how do we most efficiently and effectively get it to from the point of where it is submitted to us to the end where there is a vote on it and that’s the expertise that we have. Sometimes in the meetings we need a briefing whether it’s about a resolution, whether it’s an item for a new unit, we may need a briefing by the person about what is being proposed—and so we need, why? Is that going to raise an issue that may not be necessary to discuss in the Senate or could be dealt with more effectively in the Senate, so we ask questions sometimes they’re good questions, sometimes they’re bad questions, but we ask questions to make the thing work better. The curriculum committee like other committees comes to us with proposals and we need someone who is at their meeting that can give us some sense or if not details about what is the issue what is if we have a question or to tell us that’s a stupid question to ask and why—so it clarifies the process and makes it easier and I think at least based on what we did last year I think you can see that the process has been working I think fairly well. So, whether it’s professor Mitchell or whether it’s a liaison I think we just need to have someone and that’s the way we have been doing it as a matter of policy and a matter of practice and I think that’s the way we need to continue to do it and I don’t think that changing that is going to make for a more efficient or effective working of the Senate with regards to curricular items.

Prof. S. Mitchell:**(1:48:38)—Midway on p.7, under Prof. Soto’s Comment**

After attending ¾ meetings is why I made the decision. I want to be transparent. Prof. Sandy Figueroa needs to be recognized.

I just want to make it clear that after attending ¾ and my experience and what I witnessed first-hand is why I made my decision. I am not going to go into it because I am going to take the high road. I feel that it is important for senators to be aware of what was going on from April to now. I want to be transparent with them and I also feel that one of the main stakeholders was Sandy Figueroa who has not been involved in this conversation. I see she has her hand raised and I think that it is important that we hear from her and hear what her side is in it.

Prof. Sandy Figueroa: **(1:49:24)-- p.7, under Prof. Mitchell’s Comment**

Before I left, I should have put this in the CWCC procedures manual.

But I did not. My assumption is that this would not have been an issue. My recommendation is that CWCC take into consideration and decide what they do.

When I did this with you Prof. Ialongo, back in the day, I resisted because I thought we had done such a wonderful job on the CWCC, I couldn’t understand why I had to be in front of you, so it was about 2 or 3 meetings before I realized okay so this working particularly since the curricular items were moving along. I think the issue is…and when you read the charter of governance because that’s like the Constitution of the United States…so I am thinking to myself so alright we did not put this in the Procedures Manual, remember we have a procedures manual and this is what we do and this is what every chair and the cWCC is supposed to do We have an office of Curriculum Management is supposed to go over…these curriculum items really go over really minutia details to make sure every item has every I dotted and every t is crossed so I understand where Professor Mitchell is coming from and I support that to a degree, I really do. The problem came before I left, I should have put this in the Procedures Manual, worked this into the Procedures Manual that it is recommended or whatever the language that the CWCC would have come up with, but I never did. I didn’t even think of it because it was something that I had done. The assumption that I made was that when I left CWCC had a procedures manual, and everything is there. Then we had someone who had a different point of view and I never thought that there would have been a different point of view. So my recommendation is that the CWCC take into consideration Professor Mitchell’s email and discuss this and come up with a sentence in the Procedure’s Manual if they feel that this is necessary because there are going to be other people coming behind Professor Mitchell what do we want to do with this? but we have a difference of opinion and I tend to agree with what Professor Mitchell is saying but I also see where the College Senate is going. As I said, I just dropped the ball on this because I thought it was a great idea. I never even discussed, I did discuss it with Professor Mitchell when I handed over the reins to her that this is one of the things that we do, and she did not think of anything until she went to the meetings. My recommendation is that CWCC take this into consideration, take her email into consideration and decide what they are going to do rather than having the College Senate make a decision on this because otherwise that means that every committee is going to have to go before the College Senate to see if this is right or this is wrong. I strongly suggest that to make sure that this is in the CWCC Procedures Manual for the CWCC because everything else is there in the CWCC. That’s my only suggestion.

 Prof. Ialongo: **(1:52:24)—Bottom of p.7, under Prof. Figueroa’s Comment**

Prof. Ialongo clarified that SEC authority over establishing the agenda and conducting business between Senate meetings to expedite Senate business overrides the operating procedures of any Senate committee. Senate committees operate under the umbrella of the SEC and the Committee on Committees.

 As a matter of policy of the Charter. The SEC’s authority to set the agenda,

conduct business between meetings to expedite Senate takes priority over everything. That is the general authority of the SEC. It is not the purview of any one individual to say they will not come to the SEC meeting if they want to be in the Senate. The Executive committee’s authority on this matter is in the charter of governance. But I wholly and strongly suggest if there is any clarification as to the role of the CWCC chair, especially if it is connected to release time that this should be written in there to be clarified. But the role of the SEC is clearly stated in the charter. We are willing to work with the liaison if people do not want to come to such meetings, we understand but we want to make sure we do Senate business.…Professor Macri, I can’t tell if your hand is up.

This comment came before a motion to extend.

Prof. Diana Macri: **(1:53:22)—Bottom of p.7**

Indeed, it is, I wanted to just say because I was a little bit confused, and I had reached out to some of my friends about what the actual issue and concern was. First of all, I want to say that this committee is a very important committee not to minimize any of our other Senate committees, but I always appreciate the work done by this committee They really have to go through a lot of work they do a lot to get these items passed through. However, I want to talk in my experience as the SEC…I just wanted to say that these meetings and Sandy happened to be the Chair the whole time that I was in SEC, Sandy was the Chair of this committee and I am still unaware, and I understand Sherese, uh Professor Mitchell is saying she wants to take the high road, I am anticipating something happened at these meetings but certainly when I was on the SEC, there was nothing but positivity that came from the Chair of the CWCC coming to the SEC and giving us a heads up and letting us know I don’t want to throw this word, but it was just beneficial, it was collegial, it was beneficial, it helped everybody, the senators, it helped all of us understand what it was because some of these items are extremely curriculum dense and I am not a curriculum person so I really appreciated having that experience with the chair of the committee but Ernest did you say that somebody else on the committee has said that they are willing to do this now, so it doesn’t have to be Professor Mitchell, so is this no longer an issue now?

Professor Ialongo: Yes, there has been a faculty member volunteered to come as a liaison simply to give us a briefing, that’s it, to give a briefing.

Prof. Diana Macri: Okay, great. Okay I am grateful to whoever that person is, I am really grateful for it and again everyone who works on these Senate committees, I am grateful to you and for all the work that you do. We are aware that it’s a lot of work.

Prof. Beachdel: We need to extend again. We are out of time.

Prof. Ialongo: Motion to extend to 5:30

Just voting senators

Raise hand to stay: 38

No: 5

We extend; we have 2/3s

Prof. Diana Macri: When I was in SEC, there was nothing but positivity of Chair of CWCC coming to SEC—it was beneficial, and helpful. It was collegial.

Mr. Junior Carela motions for extension; 15 minutes.

Prof. Macri objects

Raise hand to stay: 26

No: 9

We extend; we have 2/3s

Prof. Ialongo: Do we still have quorum?

Ms. Sun please do the counting.

We have 41; we have quorum.

We extend to 5:45.

Prof. Figueroa:

I am concerned that someone was substituted without CWCC voting. Where is the

CWCC on this? I am concerned about this.

 Prof. Figueroa: **(1:59:00)—Top of p.8**

I understand the fact that there was a substitute, I am concerned that, I understand the legitimacy of the college senate so please forgive me for all of this and having to go through all of it again so know you are not going to hear from me much longer after this but I am concerned that somebody was substituted without CWCC voting on this. Was this that chair talked to everybody and people volunteered? Where is the CWCC members on this? Shouldn’t they have talked about this and decided who should be representing the CWCC to the SEC? I am concerned about that.

Prof. Ialongo:

We asked for CWCC to send someone in May, the Chair of CWCC sent no one; we asked in August and were informed the CWCC felt they were not obligated to send someone to SEC. Prof. Ialongo contacted members of the CWCC and determined there was a lack of clarity regarding Senate procedures, and an emergency meeting of SEC and CWCC was called for September 15 with the express purpose of securing a representative from the CWCC to give a briefing. At the meeting the SEC asked for volunteers to act as liaison, and one stepped forward. At that moment, the SEC considered the issue resolved. That evening Prof. Mitchell sent an email to the Senate requesting further clarification of procedures, and thus this current discussion.

Prof: Ialogno: **(1:59:51)—Top of p.8, under Prof. Figueroa’s comment**

No, you are correct and in our May communications, we made it clear if the chair did not want to present then send us a substitute, please send us a replacement which would be their own choice, and late August I asked for this conversation to take place in the CWCC, the email I received was we don’t feel that we are obligated to make this presentation. After speaking to a number of members individually, I realized they were not as clear on Senate procedures as I expected them to be. Thus, the litany of things that I mentioned earlier today. And in terms of everyone does this, it’s in the charter we have been doing it for 5 years and in my conversations with people I asked, please if you want to volunteer, please let us know, please let your chairperson know at some point. When I set up the emergency meeting yesterday it was expressly for to have somebody from the CWCC volunteer to be a liaison, so nobody was appointed, it was fully transparent what the needs were, and somebody stepped up and for the Executive committee this issue is resolved.

Prof. Lizette Colon:

We should not be imposing; let the CWCC determine; we elected her and trust

her.

 Prof. Lizette Colon: **(2:01:19)—**Midway page 8, under Prof. Ialongo

 Thank you for recognizing me, as I am not a senator. I am so glad that Professor Figueroa is sharing her feelings about this and her position as a previous chair. I feel that at this point, we should recognize and allow the Chair of the CWCC to convene again with her team because we elected them as the CWCC and then they have to decide what they are supposed to be doing. I think that we should not be controlling the committees and that’s just the way that I personally see this. I think that if there is any particular item that she deems necessary to be at the SEC to present, then she should be the one to determine that. But we should not be imposing something arbitrary like you don’t want it so we will ask anybody of your committee to represent you. I think that we should allow her to take charge of her committee. We elected her and we trust her, and I am sure that this will go smooth because we have competent people in that committee and let’s trust otherwise, we should not have committees then if everything has to be consulted and presented to the SEC. I used to be a part of the Executive committee before the chair Ialongo was the chair it was with Chair Lopez, and I did it for almost 12 years. I was also part of the curriculum committee as well and I do remember that many of us in the Executive committee were members of the Curriculum committee and we were able to discuss the items there and if there was any problem we were able to discuss it and foresee problems, so I don’t see why we are now in the past 5 years adding another layer of bureaucracy so please let’s allow less control and more democracy in our own committees otherwise we are going to get into a place where people are not going to be interested in participating because there is a strangling of the voices in the committees.

Prof. August:

Senate only has 1.5 hours and agrees with Prof. Colon, but we really got bogged down in the past and things didn’t pass that should have because of not good communication. I’ve been successfully helped by the Chair of Senate in presenting to Senate. All of this is in interest of getting best curriculum passed for students. It has been working, as it had with Sandy.

Prof. August:**(2:04:1)—**Midway page 8, under Prof. Colon

The Senate only has about an hour and a half once a month to conduct a whole lot of important business and I do agree with Lizette, that the Curriculum committee has to decide the best way to operate, but I can tell you, my experience before 5 years ago. We really got bogged down at the Senate with presentations from the curriculum committee and it became very confusing and often things didn’t pass that should have passed because people were not able to properly communicate to the senate who are not experts what the problems were and what their solutions were, and I personally have been prepped by Ernest. I don’t consider it interference, but he understands the communication and he sees, where you are going to fall into a trap. He can help you a little bit. I think all of this is in the interest of getting best curriculum passed for the students. And we don’t want to penalize someone like the Chair of the curriculum committee who has so much work already, but we do have to find a way to make this work. It worked well for the last 5 years, the way we did it with Sandy. I think we could find a way to make…because if it just comes into the Senate raw, you have no idea what is going to happen and often the students suffer because good curriculum gets voted down on some little tiny thing. It’s really hard to pass curriculum. It’s really hard to get that vast majority of quorum. So, if 2 or 3 people get confused, they vote no, the curriculum dies. I am not giving an answer, we need a solution so if you don’t like the one, we did for the last 5 years, we have to find another one, but it did work very well the last few years.

Prof. Lang:

Clarification: CWCC is it similar to regular standing committees? Is there a consistency?

Prof. Ialongo:

Yes. All Senate standing committees are equal and operate according to the Charter.

Prof. Ialongo: **(2:07:15)—p.8 under Prof. Lang**

Yes. As I noted earlier, the curriculum committee is equal to all other Senate standing committees and the authority of the SEC to make the agenda and conduct business between meetings to expedite senate business is what allows us to request representatives to come in and give us a 10 minute briefing so that we can expedite matters through the Senate. This is not just all senate standing committees, it is all people that want items on the Senate agenda. As I mentioned, we don’t change anything, we don’t control anything. It is a minimal commitment of time and it guarantees passage in the Senate because all issues that need to be resolved ahead of time are done so. As Prof. August said as incredibly successful we have been over the years, there were times when a lot of stuff got bogged down, but we have cleared the agenda for the past 5 years. There was no stifling of debate in the senate. There was no arbitrary changes of curricular items or any items brought to our attention. There was just strategy, clarification and prepping of presenters to make sure we have debate, we have a vote and we have passed exponentially more items in the past 5 years because of this behind the scenes work than we have ever done before and I have been doing this now for 11 years, 7 as vice chair and 5 as chair.

Prof. Mitchell:

Not a matter of not wanting to go to these meetings, but to preserve academic items. The committee needs to have a discussion.

Prof. Mitchell: **(2:08:46)—**Bottom of page 8

Something that I failed to mention was that beyond these meetings I was also speaking to the Chair of the SEC on the phone and in emails. It is not a matter of not wanting to go to this meeting. It is a matter of like I said, what I witnessed firsthand. It is a matter of not seeing it in the charter. Sure, he quoted what you’ve heard. But I have also read what our charge is. My main point was to preserve the academic items…just making sure that everyone’s items get presented as they came to us. When the comment was made about the liaison or the chair being the one to address any issues that may come up in the discussion of curricular items at the SEC, then help resolve them within 24 hours when the final agenda and would need to be sent out to the college. So, if the items are being sent out to the college and nothing is being revised, why would it matter when the items were being sent out? So that’s where I needed clarification. As I stated before, and as someone stated, the committee needs to have a discussion.

Beachdel: **(2:10:09)** We are at time.

Prof. Ialongo:

I appreciate those meetings were not what were expected, but they have been working over a number of years with various stakeholders to move items through Senate, most especially curriculum, and the process will continue. We’ll need someone from CWCC to present items to SEC. Thank you.

Prof. Ialongo: **(2:10:11)**—**bottom of page 8**

If you will grant me a response. I appreciate that those initial meetings may not have been everything that you had hoped for, but as Prof. Figueroa mentioned it turned out to be incredibly helpful and we have done so for 5 years. Again, let me repeat that the Authority is in the Charter of Governance, and we will need someone to brief us for curricular items going forward. Thank you very much and I appreciate everyone’s forbearance on this first meeting, and I am sure we will have continued discussions in the future. Thank you, we are adjourned at 5:46p.m.